2008-02298/

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Human Rights Commission Promises Workplace Improvements

Ottawa - May 18, 2001 - The Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission is promising employees she will work with them to create an improved workplace.

Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay has already made the pledge to staff in an internal memo. She is making public her response because of the high level of public interest in the workings of the Commission, and the need to have public confidence to do its job effectively.

"High levels of staff turnover told us there was a problem," said Ms. Falardeau-Ramsay. "That is why we decided to initiate an independent Workplace Assessment, and Commission personnel were actively involved in making that decision. The assessment report outlines the nature and extent of the challenges in our workplace in a transparent manner. We are now actively working together to meet those challenges."

Ms. Falardeau-Ramsay also addressed the issue of a Canadian Human Rights Commission lawyer who is on paid leave while he is under investigation for allegations of misconduct.

She says the seriousness of the complaint compelled the Commission to take action.

For reasons of confidentiality, Ms. Falardeau-Ramsay cannot discuss the matter further while it is under investigation.

Last Updated: 2004-02-27